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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 4. (Cancelled)

<sup>1</sup> 5. (Previously presented) An extended release tablet comprising a plurality of granules consisting of potassium chloride crystals between about 20 to about 60 mesh, and a continuous coating on the crystals, the coating consisting of a single thermoplastic cellulose ether.

6. (Cancelled)

<sup>1</sup> 2 7. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the potassium chloride crystals comprise approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet.

<sup>1</sup> 3 8. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic cellulose ether is ethylcellulose.

<sup>3</sup> 4 9. (Original) The tablet of claim 8, wherein ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet.

<sup>1</sup> 5 10. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the tablet contains about 10 mEq to about 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.

<sup>1</sup> 6 11. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.

<sup>1</sup> 7 12. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form comprising a plurality of granules having an internal core of potassium chloride between about 20 to about 60 mesh and a continuous external coating consisting of ethylcellulose, wherein the granules are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.

<sup>7</sup> 8 13. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the core of potassium chloride comprises approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.

<sup>7</sup> 9 14. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.

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- 10 ~~15~~. (Original) The tablet of claim ~~12~~<sup>7</sup>, wherein the tablet contains about 10 mEq to about 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride.
- 11 ~~16~~. (Original) The tablet of claim ~~12~~<sup>7</sup>, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride.
- 12 ~~17~~. (Original) A process to produce ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules comprising the steps of:
- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals at a dew point of about 10-20° C,
  - ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol and water sufficient to coat the crystals, and
  - iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.
- 13 ~~18~~. (Original) The process according to claim ~~17~~<sup>12</sup> wherein the dew point in step i) is 15° C.
- 14 ~~19~~. (Original) The process according to claim ~~17~~<sup>12</sup> wherein the coated potassium chloride granules of step iii) are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
- 15 ~~20~~. (Original) The process according to claim ~~17~~<sup>12</sup> wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.
- 16 ~~21~~. (Original) The process according to claim ~~20~~<sup>15</sup> wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.
- 17 ~~22~~. (Original) A method of manufacturing ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules comprising the steps of:
- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals,
  - ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol, and sufficient water to control the buildup of static charge so as to enable substantially complete coating of the crystals, and

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iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.

23. (Cancelled)

<sup>17</sup>  
18 ~~24~~. (Original) The method of claim <sup>17</sup>22 wherein the mixture of step ii) comprises 0.5 – 2% water, by weight.

<sup>17</sup>  
19 ~~25~~. (Original) The method of claim <sup>17</sup>22 wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.

<sup>19</sup>  
20 ~~26~~. (Original) The method of claim <sup>19</sup>25 wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

~~31~~ <sup>21</sup>31. (Currently amended) A process to produce a pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form, the dosage unit comprising ~~ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules~~, the method process comprising the steps of:

- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals;
- ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol and water sufficient to coat the crystals;
- iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules; and
- iv) compressing a plurality of coated potassium chloride granules into a tablet to yield the pharmaceutical dosage unit.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~32~~32. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>21</sup>31, wherein the tablet further comprises a compression aid and a disintegrant.

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- <sup>22</sup>  
233. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>22</sup>32, wherein the compression aid comprises microcrystalline cellulose, and the disintegrant comprises croscarmellose sodium.
- <sup>21</sup>  
24 34. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>21</sup>31, wherein the tablet comprises, by weight:  
about 75.3% potassium chloride;  
about 15.5% ethylcellulose;  
about 8.7% microcrystalline cellulose; and  
about 0.5% croscarmellose sodium.
- <sup>21</sup>  
25 35. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>21</sup>31, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.
- <sup>21</sup>  
26 36. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>21</sup>31, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.
- <sup>12</sup>  
27 37. (Previously presented) The process according to claim <sup>12</sup>17, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.
- <sup>17</sup>  
28 38. (Previously presented) The method of claim <sup>17</sup>22, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.